相原瑛人

ニューノーマル

NEW NORMAL

3

New Normal

AIHARA AKITO

FE SCANS

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New Normal
Chapter 15

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コミックアウル
comic owl

ゴトゴト…
ゴトゴト
カタカタ

C15
ゴトン
ゴトゴト

HEY~
THERE'S NOBODY ELSE HERE...

HOW ABOUT WE TAKE THEM OFF?
...OUR MASKS

AHA-HA
COME ON YOU GET IN TOO!
IT FEELS REALLY NICE.

.....

Tremble Tremble Tremble

TAKING OFF HER MASK

ARIONA-CHAN... RIGHT BEFORE ME...

AMA-ZING!

Woah~

Hello

So hot~

OOOO

WHAT? WHY!?

THE TRIBUNAL HAS MADE A DECISION, AND THE ANSWER IS NO!

Whisper

Whisper

Whisper

THOSE IDIOTS ARE AT IT AGAIN

You damn normie!

BU- BUT WHY?!

QUIET!

AS IF THE KING OF THE NORMIES HAS ANY RIGHT TO ASK FROM US! THOU ARE UN- WORTHY OF WATCHING IT!

WHAT ELSE? THE POOL TRIP WITH HATA

UH?

HOW DID IT GO?

SO

WE JUST PRACTICED HOW TO SWIM

NO-THING, REALLY

PLUS THAT FIRST YEAR GIRL

AND SHE'S A LOT MORE PROACTIVE THAN YOU

MEN ARE WEAK AGAINST THOSE TYPE OF GIRLS, YOU KNOW?

...WHAT?

I MEAN THAT FIRST YEAR IS QUITE THE CUTIE

IS THAT SO?

THEN YOU DID NOT TRY TO WIDEN THE GAP IN THE RACE?

YOU BETTER GET SERIOUS, OR YOU WILL BE LEFT BITING THE DUST

AND WHAT IF ON TOP OF THAT SHE GOES FOR THE KILL AND SHOWS HIM HER MOUTH?

MEN ARE STUPID, SO ALL SHE HAS TO DO IS TO LAND A CLEAR HIT AND HE'LL BE OUT FOR THE COUNT

GEEZ, CALM DOWN GIRL. IT'S NOT LIKE I'M TELLING YOU TO GO AND SHOW HATA-KUN YOUR MOUTH OR ANY-THING, OKAY?

EH...?

Y-YEAH!

ぎゅっ！

Giggle
Giggle
Giggle
Giggle
...?
OF COURSE NOT!
AH-
WHA-
BA-DUMP
I'M... A PERV...?!
I MEAN, I DON'T THINK YOU'RE THE KINDA PERVERT THAT GETS OFF BY SHOWING OTHERS HER MOUTH
IT'D BE TOO WEIRD IF YOU JUST WANTED TO GET A BOY-FRIEND SO YOU COULD GO SHOWING OFF YOUR MOUTHS TO EACH OTHER
THAT YOU LIKE HATA-KUN
YOU JUST ADMIT-TED IT

WHAT AM I SUP-POSED TO DO?

EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE...

WHAT SHOULD I EVEN SAY TO HIM...?

MAYBE I SAID SOME-THING THAT HURT HIM BY ACCI-DENT...

THAT TIME AT THE POOL, HAKA-KUN SEEMED TO BE FEELING REALLY DOWN...

AND IF THAT'S THE CASE...

UH...
BUT WE JUST WENT TO THE POOL THE OTHER DAY...
THAT'S THAT, WHILE THIS'S THIS!
And we had third-wheel Natsuki-san back then!
ALRIGHT! THEN FOR THE UPCOMING HOLIDAY, WE'RE GOING ON A FESTIVAL DATE~♪
ES
R-REALLY, I-IS THAT SO...
AND THAT'S WHY I'VE BESTOWED YOU THE GRACE OF GOING ON A DATE WITH THE CUTE ME!
I MEAN YOU'VE BEEN MY HERO SINCE THAT DAY WHEN YOU PROTECTED ME FROM THOSE ANTI-MASK PRO-AND TESTORS, YOU KNOW?
BECAUSE OF THAT YOU HAD TO GO THROUGH SUCH TROUBLE...
...I DIDN'T DO A THING, REALLY ...
...
...STILL,
THANKS TO THAT I FEEL LIKE A WEIGHT'S BEEN LIFT-ED FROM MY CHEST
THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID BACK AT THE POOL

NO, YOU REALLY SAVED ME BACK THERE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D HAVE DONE IF NATSUKI-SAN HAD SEEN ME LIKE THAT

EH~ IT'S NOTHING TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT

BUT DON'T WORRY. I GOT YOUR BACK! THAT IS WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR!

...IT FEELS LIKE

IF IT TURNED OUT THAT HE DIDN'T ONLY OPEN UP TO ME ABOUT IT... I WOULDN'T LIKE THAT...

I WONDER IF HE TOLD NATSUKI-SAN ABOUT THAT PERSON TOO?

...WELL

WHATEVER, SENPAI MANAGED TO CHEER BACK UP AND THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS!

GOOD JOB, ME!

Sfx Cicada noises

HEY...

...

DID YOU HAVE FUN AT THE POOL?

NATSUKI-SAN...

...YES, I DID

Y-
YEAH...

YOU HAD SOMETHING YOU WANTED TO SAY, DIDN'T YOU?

UH...

I'LL GO AHEAD AND SAY THIS FIRST

THAT'S WHY YOU GOT OFF THE BUS WHEN YOU SAW ME, RIGHT?

NO, YOU DIDN'T DO ANY-THING LIKE THAT!

HUH?!

IF I SAID... SOMETHING THAT HURT YOU IN ANY WAY... BY ACCIDENT...

HUH, REALLY?

I'M SORRY

WHA-?

...
I KNEW IT, SOMETHING DID HAPPEN

UHM, WELL, ERIKA-SAN AND I ENDED UP LIKE THAT CAUSE...

SHE WAS KIND OF CHEERING ME UP AT THE TIME, I GUESS...

...
UHM

HOW ABOUT WE END THIS TOPIC ON ICE-CREAM?

My treat!

NO,

IT'S ME WHO SHOULD'VE SAID IT SOONER

THANK YOU FOR TELLING ME

LOOK, IT'S OVER HERE

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

THERE'S A GOOD PLACE AROUND HERE.

IS THIS... A PARK...?

A slide?

WHAT'S THIS HOLE FOR?

ANYWAY, DON'T YOU THINK THIS SLIDE HAS A RATHER INTERESTING SHAPE?

AS TIME PASSED IT ENDED UP COVERED ALMOST COMPLETELY BY FACTO-RIES

BUT I BET BEFORE THE PANDEMIC, THIS MUST HAVE BEEN A NICE RESI-DENTIAL AREA

YOU KNOW THAT SAY-ING ABOUT WANTING TO CRAWL INTO A HOLE...

BUT... HOW ARE WE SUP-POSED TO EAT THE ICE CREAM HERE?

WHAT ELSE?

TO GET IN-SIDE

ISN'T IT HUMAN NATURE TO WANT TO GO INSIDE A HOLE WHEN YOU SEE ONE?

I'M NOT SURE THAT'S QUITE RIGHT...

THAT'S WHY

I THINK A HOLE IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO HIDE WHEN YOU FEEL EMBAR-RASSED, RIGHT?

IF WE'RE INSIDE A HOLE

THEN IT'S FINE NO MATTER HOW EMBARRASSING IT MIGHT BE, RIGHT?

OWW-

I'M SORRY IT WAS OUT-RAGEOUS OF ME TO TAKE MY MASK OFF

YEO-WCH!

BAM!

WAH!

ARE YOU OKAY, HATA-KUN?!

WÄS IT SO OFFPUT-TING?

EH?!

TO THINK I THOUGHT NOTHING OF SO CASUALLY, SHOWING MY MOUTH TO A BOY, MAY-BE I REALLY AM A PERVERT!

NO WAY...

...I SEE...

...YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT...

I MEAN, I'VE AL-READY SEEN IT MANY TIMES...

NOT AT ALL, I WAS JUST SURPRISED BECAUSE IT WAS SO SUDDEN

I WANT TO SEE IT MORE

BUT, EVEN SO

I'M GLAD THAT YOU SHOWED ME

... WELL,

YES, WE DO BUT...

SO... IT'S TRUE...

YOU GUYS REALLY LOVE TO LOOK AT GIRLS' MOUTHS?

RIGHT NOW, THE REASON I'M GLAD,

IS BE-CAUSE IT'S YOU NATSUKI-SAN...

Restless

Restless

IT'S VANILLA AND A LIMITED ORANGE FLAVOR

PICK THE ONE YOU LIKE

SHOVE

GUM

AND ALSO...

YOU TOO SHOW ME YOUR MOUTH, HATA-KUN

IT'S PERFECT FOR EAT-ING

IT'S MELTED A BIT

Suck

Suck

Suck

GLANCE

Suck

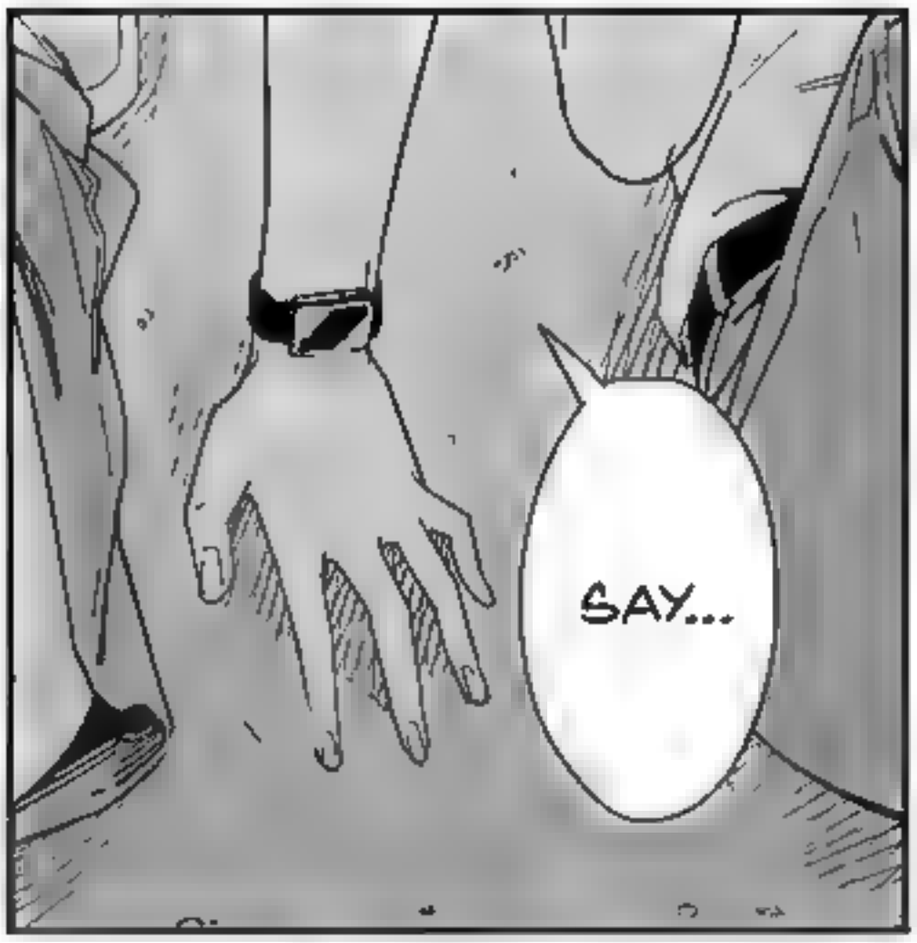
...

GLANCE

IS THE ORANGE FLAVORED ONE GOOD?

I'm sorry!

OWCH!


SAY...

HEE-
EEH

YEAH,
IT'S
REFRESHING
AND TASTY

...DO YOU
MIND IF I...
TASTE
YOURS...

A TASTE OF YOURS?

CAN YOU GIVE ME...

SHIT, THIS IS BAD

ドクン

ドクン

DOES THAT MEAN...

NO?

.....

B-BUT I...

I'VE AL-READY...

B-B-
BUT...

THIS...

NO...

NOT
REALLY,
BUT...

VERY RE-FRESHING

..YES

LICK...

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY CALLED IT BACK THEN?

THAT THING OF PUTTING YOUR LIPS ON SOMETHING THAT ANOTHER PERSON HAD ALREADY PUT THEIRS ON FIRST

APPARENTLY, IT WAS PRETTY NORMAL BP...

※BP……Before Pandemic

THE CORRECT ANSWER IS~

I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT FOOD

.....

SHABU-SHABU?

TLN A Japanese dish, eaten communally. The joke is dumb and ame just keep reading.

AN IN-DIRECT...

...KISS

IN-DIRECT...

KISS...

IF YOU DON'T HURRY IT'S GONNA MELT

Suuuck

HATA-KUN

AN IN-DIRECT...

KISS...

STEP

STEP

WOAH!

IT'S ALRIGHT, I CAN DO IT TOO

IT'S BETTER IF YOU DO IT WHILE SITTING

YOU MIGHT SLIP

HATA-KUN

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

OUCH OUCH

ズル

ズル

ズル

I ONLY TREATED YOU BECAUSE IT'S YOU

THE ICE CREAM TOO...

...GOT IT

BY THE WAY

WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER

IT'S A SECRET JUST BETWEEN US TWO, OKAY?

ALRIGHT! THEN FOR THE UPCOMING HOLIDAY WE ARE GOING ON HAVE A FESTIVAL DATE

AH!

HOLI-DAY?

SAY, ARE YOU FREE FOR THE NEXT HOLIDAY?

SORRY, ACTUALLY I DO HAVE SOME STUFF TO DO...

I SEE

OKAY, GOT IT

HATA-
KUN

LET'S
GO

OKAY

COME ON, LET'S GET GOING ALREADY

SORRY, YOU KNOW HOW THE BUSES ARE...

AT THE FORMER OUTLET MALL

You didn't know?

WHERE ARE THEY DOING THE FESTIVAL, BY THE WAY?

GEEEZ~

YOU'RE LATE AGAIN, SENPAI~

VISITORS, PLEASE HEAD OVER TO-WARDS THE DISINFECTION GATE!

PLEASE, REMEMBER TO MAIN-TAIN YOUR SOCIAL DIS-TANCING WHILE LINING UP!

PLEASE STEP AHEAD

WONDER IF SOMETHING HAPPENED?

THERE'S A LOT OF GUYS FROM THE EPIDEMIC PREVENTION AGENCY

WE ARE FINALLY INSIDE!

VR射的

WOAH!

THERE'S SO MANY STALLS♪

AH!

?

AAAH!

Drop

I'LL BE NICE AND DO IT TOGETHER WITH YOU♪

TELL ME IF THERE'S SOMETHING THAT CATCHES YOUR EYE!

Drone Catch

1回 ¥300

IF IT ISN'T HATA AND THE FIRST-YEAR GIRL~

OH MY~

NATSUKI-SAN...

.....

Let's go Senpai!

SO YOU TWO... ALSO CAME...

WHY IS EVERY-ONE HERE?!

UHM, WELL...

Closing in...

Closing in...

Sawabe?!

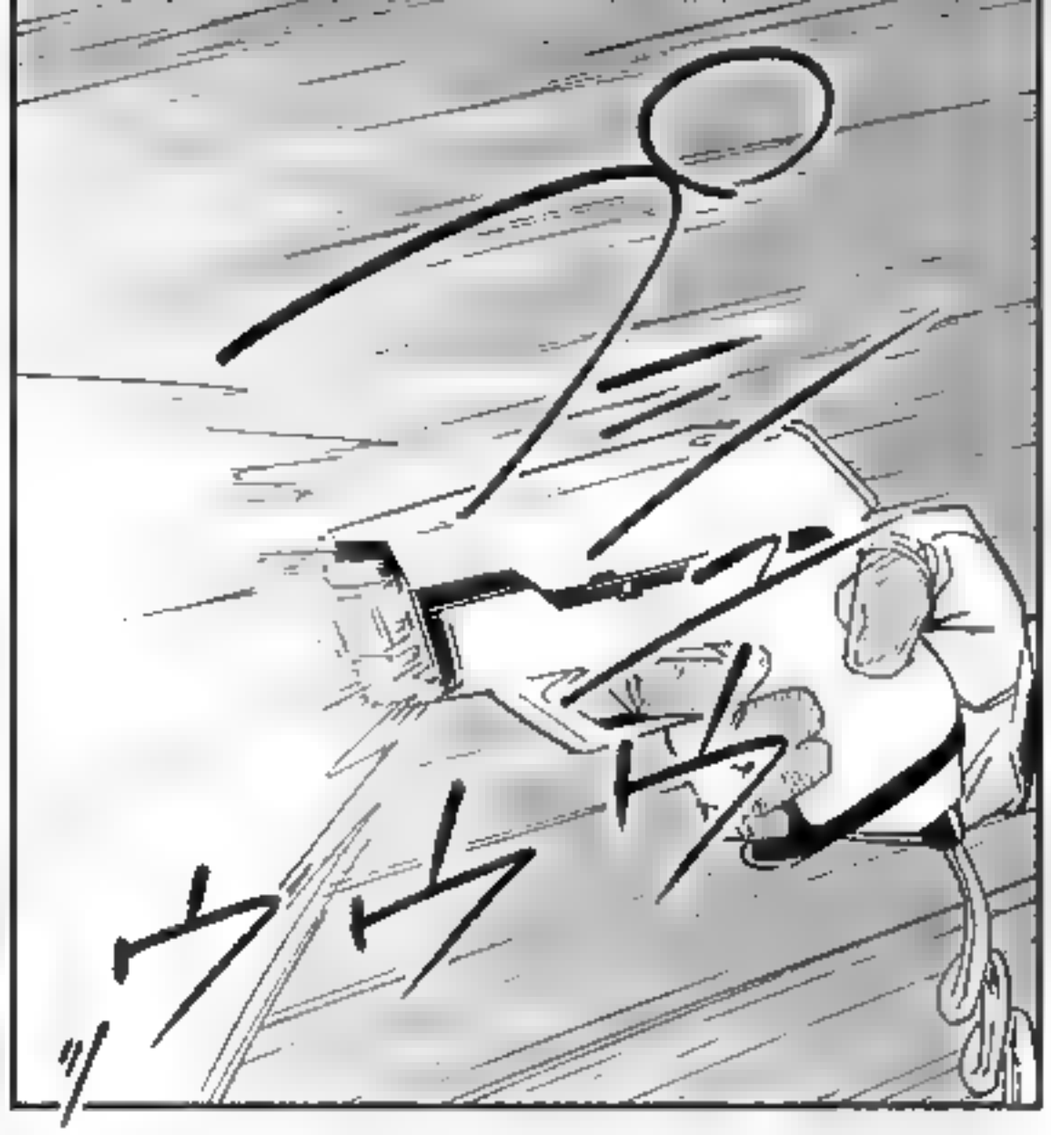
YOU SURE SEEM TO BE HAVING FUN OVER THERE, HUH~

AIN'T THAT HATA?

OH~

What a small world, huh

WAAH!
KYAA!
THE FUCK?!



THE STUDENTS OVER THERE

YOU AREN'T MANTAINING YOUR SOCIAL DISTANCING
PLEASE DISTANCE A LITTLE MORE FROM EACH OTHER, WILL YOU?

SO THERE ARE ALSO WOMEN IN THE EPIDEMIC PREVENTION AGENCY...

I'M SORRY...

Anti-septic solu-tion?

What did they spray us with?

SHE'S SO COOL...

UH?! BUT...

I SAID HURRY!

HURRY, WHILE NO-BODY IS LOOKING!

TAP TAP

What's that?

HERE, YOUR CONSO-LATION PRIZE

超リア充! VR射的 シューティング

1回¥500

ARE YOU EVEN TRYING?

YOU GOTTA AIM BETTER, SENPAI

Don't eat!

Easy and cheap to keep!

Animatronic Fishes Goldfish catching 700 yen per try *Guaranteed at least 1 f

Ooh, looks just like the real deal...

What?! It broke already!

BUT

IT WAS SUPER FUN, WASN'T IT~

食む! お好み焼き ドリンクフード

ケーキは 飲み物

WE SURE TRIED A LOT OF DIFFERENT THINGS, I'M ALREADY OUT OF MONEY

WE HAVE AN ANNOUNCE-MENT FOR ALL OUR ESTEEMED VISITORS

HOW CAN WE CALL THIS A DATE WITH ALL THIS EXTRA BAGGAGE?!

RIGHT~

THE MORE THE MERRIER, AIN'T THAT RIGHT?

ALL THE ATTEN-DEES PLEASE...

WILL BE HELD THE 18TH FESTIVAL COMMEMO-RATING THE CONSTRUC-TION OF THE EPIDEMIC PREVEN-TION WALL

AT THE NO. 2 EAST PARKING LOT

WANNA GO SEE IT TOGETHER

OH!

FINALLY TIME FOR THE MAIN EVENT

BEEP

!

WHAT'S WRONG?

MN?

OH, TRUE

THOSE TWO DISAP-PEARED AGAIN!

FUCK!

AH!

I DON'T CARE...

.....

SHE GOT YOU GOOD, HUH~

HMPH

OH MY, WHAT A CUTE FRIEND YOU HAVE THERE

BON

AH!

COM-MANDER SAGARA

GOOD WORK

COM-MANDER DAN

BEEP

OPEN
解錠しました

WE WILL NOW MOBILIZE IN THE NO 1. EAST PARKING LOT

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR ANY ANTI-MASKERS

Rub

SHABU SHABU

MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT SINCE HOT POT INVOLVES EVERYONE EATING FROM THE SAME, WELL... POT... THAT'S HOW HE TRIES TO PASS THE THING OF EVERYONE PUTTING ON THEIR LIPS SOMETHING WHERE SOMEONE ELSE HAD ALREADY EATEN TOO.

Scarecrow8
I still think that she did some crazy mental gymnastics with their sense of shame when she basically did the equivalent to show him her boobs and then sucking his dick even though they aren't dating.

Heika
I think what she did was sort of like 69'ing. A mutual exchange of bodily fluids without intercourse, that's the closest thing I can think o

Scarecrow8
they aren't dating

To be continued

ISA ISA...

IF I RECALL YOU WENT MONITO-RING ALL OF TOKYO, DIDN'T YOU?

HOW DID IT GO?

.....

I WANT TO HEAR IT DIRECTLY FROM YOU, SAGARA-KUN

IT'S ALL IN THE REPORT

YOU DIDN'T READ IT?

...I SEE

SO YOU FOUND THEM

I FOUND BOTH OF MY PAR-ENTS

MAYBE HE DIED A DOG'S DEATH SOME-WHERE IN A DITCH

OR MAYBE, HE MAN-AGED TO SURVIVE THE PAN-DEMIC

EH?

MY BRO-THER WASN'T THERE

HOW-EVER

...FOR ALL WE KNOW

HE MIGHT BE LIVING THE SUR-VIVALIST LIFESTYLE OVER ON THE OTHER SIDE

WHATEVER THE CASE MAY BE, HIS NAME ISN'T RECORDED AMONG THE CITIZENS ON THIS SIDE OF THE WALL

AND THAT'S A FACT

.....

...WELL, IF THAT IS THE CASE

I'LL PRAY FOR THE BOTH OF YOU TO BE ABLE TO SEE EACH-OTHER AGAIN

ㄱㅁ

ㄱㅁ

ㄱㅁ

IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU LET ME MEET IT

THAT CAT YOU BROUGHT FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL?

BY THE WAY, HOW IS THE LITTLE ONE DOING?

BEEP

KER-CHAK!

HMPH

OH, I'D ALSO LIKE TO DRINK SOME OF THE COFFEE YOU MAKE, SAGARA-KUN

HAAH

HAAH

HAAH

HAAH

BWA-AAH!

THEY FINALLY LEFT!

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

WE JUST...

HAD A MASK KISS...!

CLICK

NATSUKI-SAN AND THE OTHERS MUST'VE LEFT BY NOW TOO
YES, LET'S GO!
W-WELL
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THEY CAN FIND US!

LET'S TRY AND LOOK FOR A BACK DOOR...
IT WON'T OPEN...

IT'S JUST A RUMOR
SO THEY'RE JUST USING THE ANTI-MASKERS?

H 45 BEEP

PLEASE PROCEED TO THE DESIGNATED AREA, H-45

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ONLY SPECTATING PLEASE HEAD TO THE LEFT AND GET YOUR NUMBERED TICKET

THOSE WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SKY LANTERN EVENT, PLEASE PROCEED RIGHT AHEAD.

I MEAN, IT ISN'T LIKE WE ARE...

DATING OR ANYTHING...

H45

NA-TSUKI,

YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO LOOK FOR HATA AND THE FIRST YEAR?

...NO

YOU'RE GONNA REGRET IT IF YOU KEEP BEING STUBBORN ABOUT IT

Sigh ——…

YOU ARE SUCH AN AWKWARD GIRL...

FOR REAL...

Whisper

Whisper

... ah, senpai, over here

Whisper

Whisper

Whisper

There're pandemic prevention guys everywhere, we can't go out like that...

BEFORE THAT, LET'S TRY CHECK-ING UP HERE REAL QUICK

...HERE?

WEREN'T WE TRYING TO GET OUT?

I BET THE VIEW MUST BE THE BEST FROM UP HERE♪

SINCE I'VE REALLY BEEN ITCH-ING TO CHECK IT OUT FOR A WHILE NOW

WOAH~ CHECK THIS OUT, SENPAI!

IT WOULD'VE BEEN NICE IF THERE WAS AN ELEVATOR AROUND HERE.

PANT

WHEEZE

PANT

SHOULD WE BE DOING THIS RIGHT NOW...

I BET FROM HERE WE CAN GET THE BEST VIEW POSSIBLE FOR THE SKY LANTERNS♪

AH!

TRUE!

PLEASE DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO THE EDGE, OR WE'LL GET SPOT-TED!

ERIKA-SAN

...IT SURE IS

...IT'S PITCH BLACK UP HERE

SEN-PAI~

BEING ALONE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

DOESN'T IT MAKE YOUR HEART GO DOKI DOKI

UH?

I GUESS...

DON'T WORRY!

THERE'S NOBODY ELSE HERE!

Nudge

Nudge

...

H-HEY, S-STOP THAT!

WHAT ABOUT SOCIAL DISTAN-CING?!

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT NATSUKI-SAN?

N-NO... JUST BECAUSE THERE ISN'T ANYONE ELSE AROUND DOESN'T MAKE IT...

...I MEAN IT'S MORE LIKE-

YOU TWO ARE JUST FRIENDS, RIGHT?

YOU AREN'T HER BOY-FRIEND, ARE YOU?

RI- RIGHT

WHA-?

BUT SENPAI

YES

.....

.....

THAT MAKES SENSE

I MEAN... IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN JUST ...

ISN'T THERE SOME-THING WRONG WITH THAT LOGIC?

HOLD UP!!

SEN-PAI

IT'S NONE OF NATSUKI-SAN'S BUSINESS, RIGHT?

THEN, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU DO WITH ME

NOBODY WILL GET ANGRY EITHER

NOBODY ELSE WILL EVER KNOW

RIGHT NOW, IT'S ONLY THE TWO OF US UP HERE. SO, NO MATTER WHAT WE DO

DON'T THINK ABOUT IT TOO MUCH. IT'S VERY SIMPLE

RIGHT NOW, WE CAN DO WHATEVER WE WANT

THAT'S WHY...

TAKING OFF OUR MASKS

LIKE, FOR EXAM-PLE

BA-DUMP

EXACT-LY...

WE CAN'T IN SUCH A PLACE.

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

ERIKA... SAN...

.....

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

AFTER ALL, HERE...

IT'S EXACTLY BECAUSE WE'RE IN SUCH A PLACE THAT WE CAN

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

ドン

ドン

BA-DUMP

Shake
Shake
Shake
Shake
.....
SO, CAN YOU SEE IT?
MY MOUTH?

AS YOU SAID, IT'S PITCH BLACK UP HERE

...SEE

YOU TOO, SEN-PAI

WHY DON'T YOU TRY TAKING YOURS OFF AS WELL?

ナデ

IT'S OKAY

THIS IS JUST BETWEEN THE TWO OF US

IT'LL BE OUR LITTLE SECRET

SFX - Turning on a BIG ass light

YAAAAAAY!

AH!

THE FES-TIVAL!

Clap Clap Clap Clap Clap Clap Clap

J

WHAT A MOMENT TO DECIDE TO TURN ON THE LIGHTS...

GEEZ...

It was al... in plain sight

HURRY UP AND COVER IT!!!

UGH!

KYAAAA

AGH!

THUD

...EH?

UH-

AH?

AREN'T YOU THE KID FROM BEFORE?

ISN'T THIS PER-SON

SAGARA-SAN... RIGHT?

SO THE PERSON FROM THE PANDEMIC PREVENTION THAT SHE MENTIONED WAS, YOU...?

YOU MEAN, NATSUKI-SAN?

EH?

HAAH~

that was so scary

AREN'T YOU WITH THAT BLACK HAIRED GIRL TODAY?

I'M SORRY FOR TRES-PASSING

THEY'RE ABOUT TO RELEASE THE SKY LANTERNS, YOU KNOW

ARE YOU LEAV-ING?

WELL, IF YOU EX-CUSE US WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY NOW?

...UHM

BUT, HOW?

...LET'S JUST SAY, STUFF HAP-PENED

HUH? YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW?

WHAT ARE SKY LAN-TERNS?

CAN WE REALLY WATCH THEM FROM UP HERE?!

SKY LAN-TERNS?

Waah~

So pretty~

THE SKY LANTERNS

SO... THESE ARE

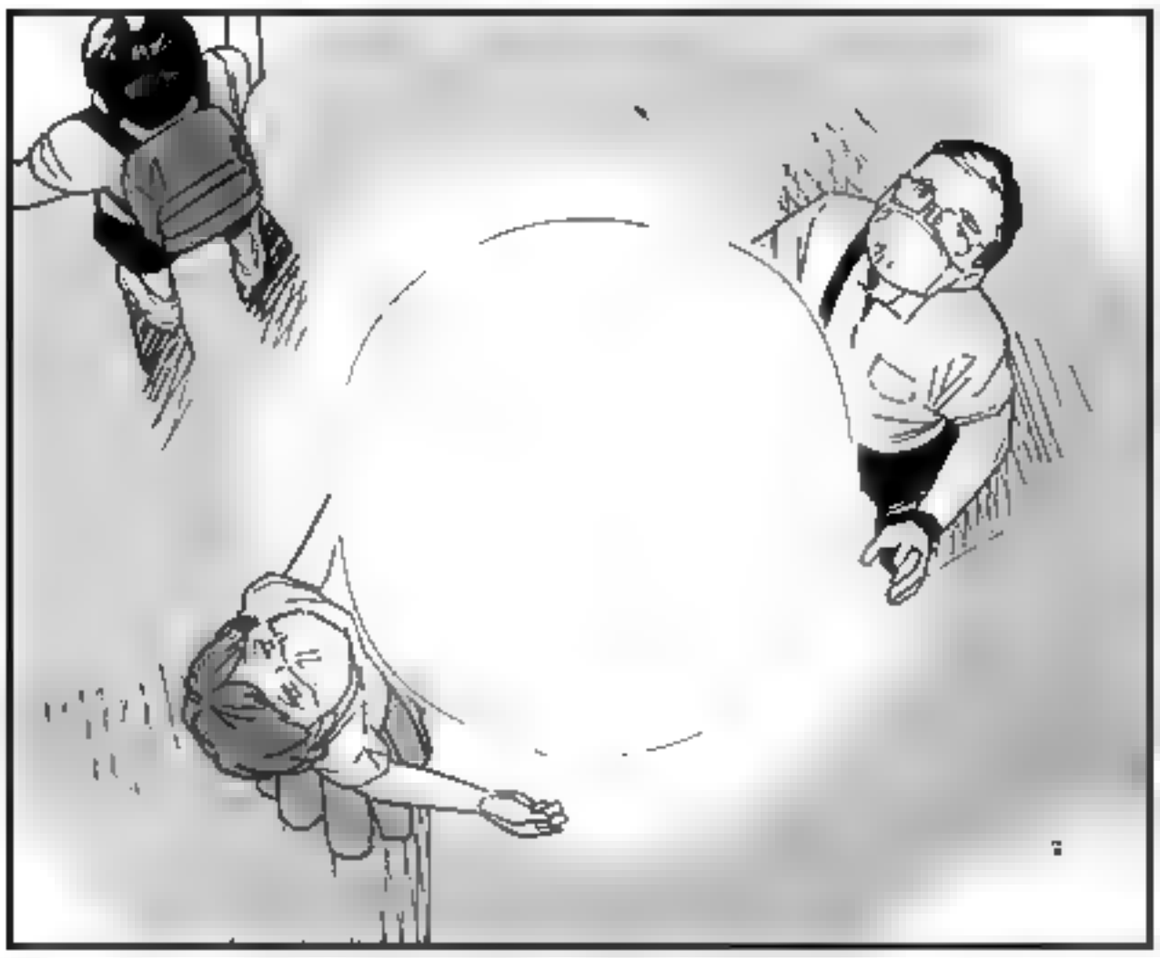
BUT, EACH ONE OF THESE LANTERNS MEANS THAT THERE IS STILL SOMEONE WHO REMEMBERS THEM ON THIS SIDE OF THE WALL

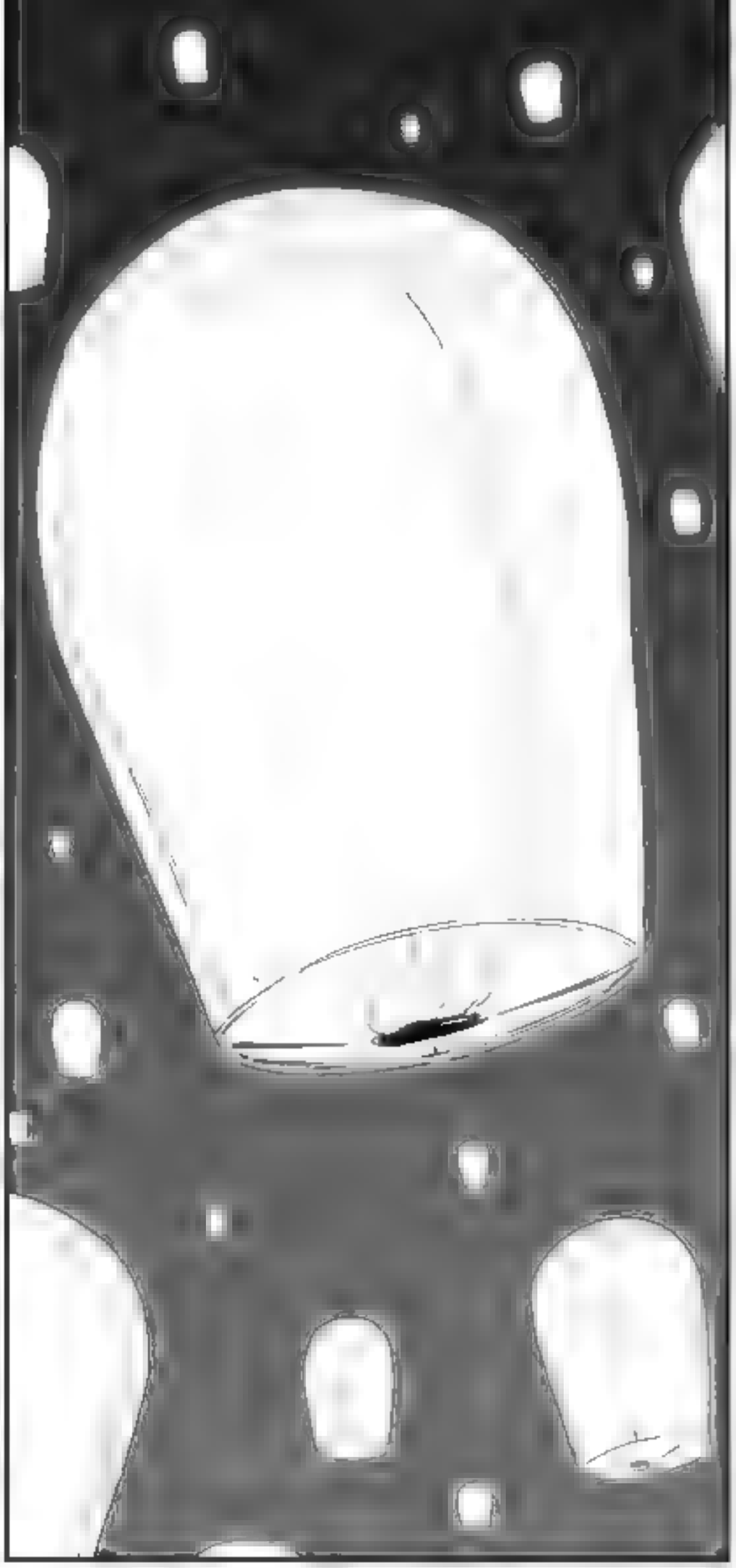
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL, THERE ARE MANY THAT FELL VICTIM OF THE PANDEMIC

AND WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO GET IN THE CITY, THEY'RE LEFT THERE, FORGOTTEN BY THE REST OF SOCIETY

THEY SYMBOLIZE THE LIGHT IN OUR HEARTS

To be continued





OOOOOH

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

THEY'RE BEAUTI-FUL, HUH.

YES, VERY.

.....

WHAT HAPPENED WITH HER USUAL, SNARKY RETORTS...

NATSUKI IS SO OUT OF IT THAT SHE ANSWERED HONESTLY...

GOOD GRIEF, IT'S ALL THAT IDIOT'S FAULT...

I WONDER WHERE THEY'RE WATCHING THE LANTERNS FROM...

YOU'RE ABLE TO PROPERLY PROCESS THAT THAT PERSON IS GONE.

WHEN YOU WITNESS SOMEONE DIE IN FRONT OF YOU,

THE LIGHT...

IN OUR HEARTS?

SO, WE DO THIS AS PROOF THAT THEY ONCE EXISTED?

THE ONES WHO HAVE DIED AND THE ONES WHO STILL REMAIN, THERE'S NO WAY FOR THOSE OVER HERE TO GRASP THE MAGNITUDE OF THAT THOUGHT.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE WORLD BEYOND THE WALL?

AT BEST, THE ONLY ONES WHO ARE ABLE TO TRULY PUT A FACE ON THE DEAD, OR WONDER IF THEY ARE STILL ALIVE, ARE THOSE WHO SURVIVED.

PROVE WHAT? FOR WHO? FOR THOSE ON THIS SIDE OF THE WALL, NONE OF THEM EVER EXISTED, AND THAT'S A FACT...

ABOUT "WHAT IF THEY'RE STILL ALIVE."

THEY CAN'T HELP BUT THINK ABOUT IT.

ABOUT THE "WHAT IFS."

THE FACT THAT NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO IN YOUR LIFE, DEATH STILL COMES FOR US ALL.

IT'S FOR ANOTHER THING THAT EVERYONE KNOWS ALL TOO WELL.

NOPE, STILL WRONG.

...THEN THOSE LAN-TERNS, ARE A SORT OF PRAYER FOR THOSE PEOPLE'S SURVIVAL?

THOSE ARE THE SENTI-MENTS EMBEDDED IN THOSE LANTERNS.

BUT EVEN SO, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO KEEP ON LIVING.

THOSE LIGHTS REPRE-SENT THEIR HOPE.

FOR THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DECIDED TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD.

...
YEAH.

YOU KNOW, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL...

IS THERE PERHAPS ANYONE LIKE THAT FOR YOU, SAGARA-SAN...?

.....

.....

I MET HER WHILE I WAS IN QUARAN-TINE...

SHE WAS IN THE ROOM ACROSS FROM MINE.

SHE'S NOT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL, BUT...

I TOO HAVE A PERSON LIKE THAT.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE CAME FROM OR WHO SHE REALLY WAS...

I ONLY KNOW HER NAME, HER FACE...

AND THAT SHE WAS REALLY GOOD AT DANCING.

BUT THEN ONE DAY, I SUDDENLY WASN'T ABLE TO CONTACT HER...

I SAW HER IN PERSON FOR AN INSTANT, AND WE ONLY EVER TALKED THROUGH VIDEO CALLS, BUT EVEN SO...

EVEN IF IT WAS ONLY THROUGH A SCREEN

AS LONG AS SHE STAYED THERE WITH ME, BY MY SIDE...

I WAS ABLE TO GET OVER MY FEARS.

GRIP

I KNOW...

I KNOW THAT I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE HER AGAIN, AND YET.

I FIND MYSELF LOOKING FOR HER AMONG THE CROWD.

I'M AL-WAYS... EVERY-WHERE I GO.

SFX - Firework BOOM

SFX - BOOM

SFX - BOOM

SFX - BOOM

SFX - BOOM

SFX - BOOM

SFX - BOOM

YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HE'S GOING THROUGH, DON'T YOU?

LET'S HELP HIM.

OK?

THAT'S HIS CROSS TO CARRY.

I GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT.

AFTER ALL, IT'S SOMETHING YOU HAVE THE MEANS TO DO, SAGARA-KUN.

EVEN THOUGH YOU TO-TALLY UNDER-STAND HIM.

THERE YOU GO AGAIN.

SO MAN UP AND GO SAVE HIM!

ZZZ...

Anyway, it looks like she made the arrangements for her remains to not be sent back to her parent's place since she got quarantined.

I sent you a map with the info of her burial place.

THANKS, I OWE YOU ONE.

That woman.

It seems that she had distanced herself from her family. She must have had her reasons.

NOW, DOWN TO BUSINESS. WHAT'S YOUR PRICE?

WE'RE THE ONLY TWO WHO KNOW ABOUT THIS, IF YOU SAY NOTHING, SO WILL I.

Still, even though we're talking about an already deceased person.

Sharing a patient's info with an outsider isn't just any rule violation, y'know? If this gets out, even I'm gonna get dragged into your mess.

...Let's see.

When you go back to exploring Tokyo, I want you to look for a Rib's figure.

UH, A WHAT?

A rib kaiju figure, so rib for short.

Come on man, this is common knowledge!

SUP, BLACK HAIRED GIRL.

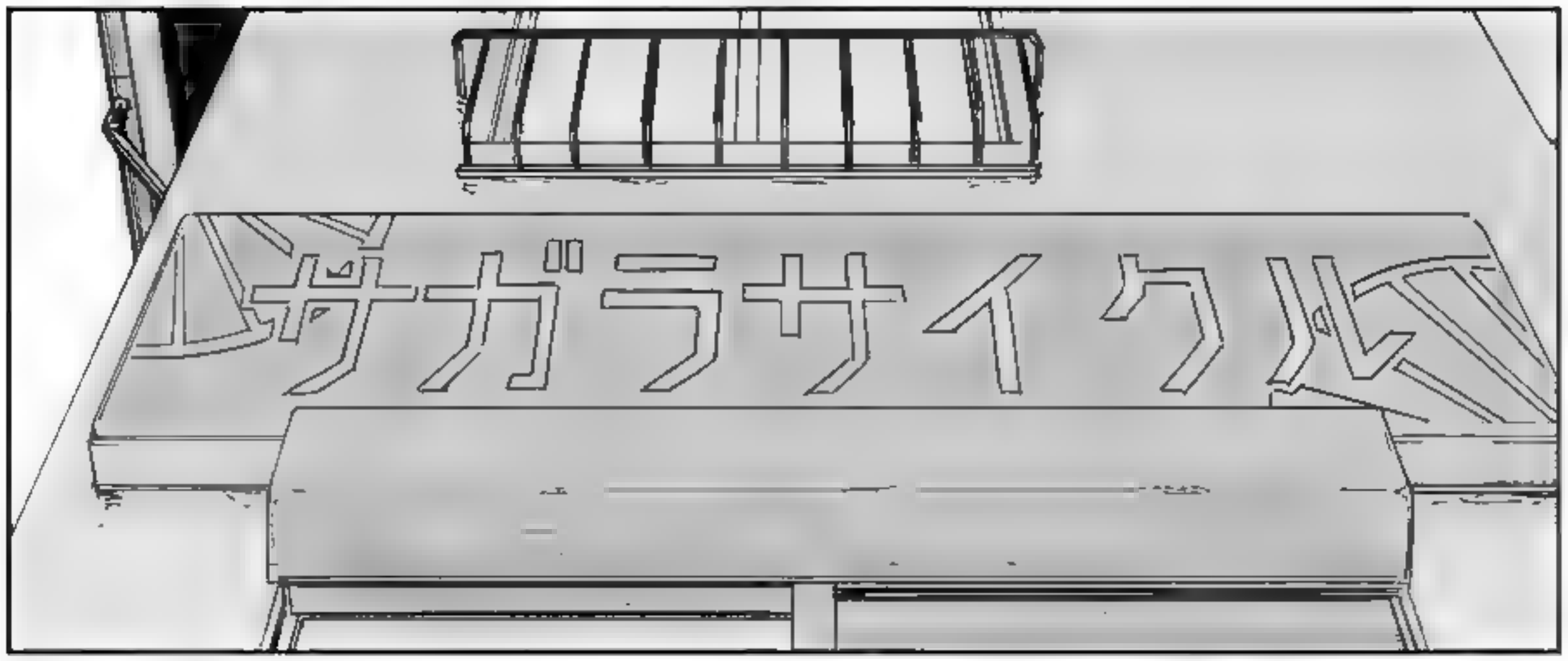
NICE TIMING YOU GOT HERE.

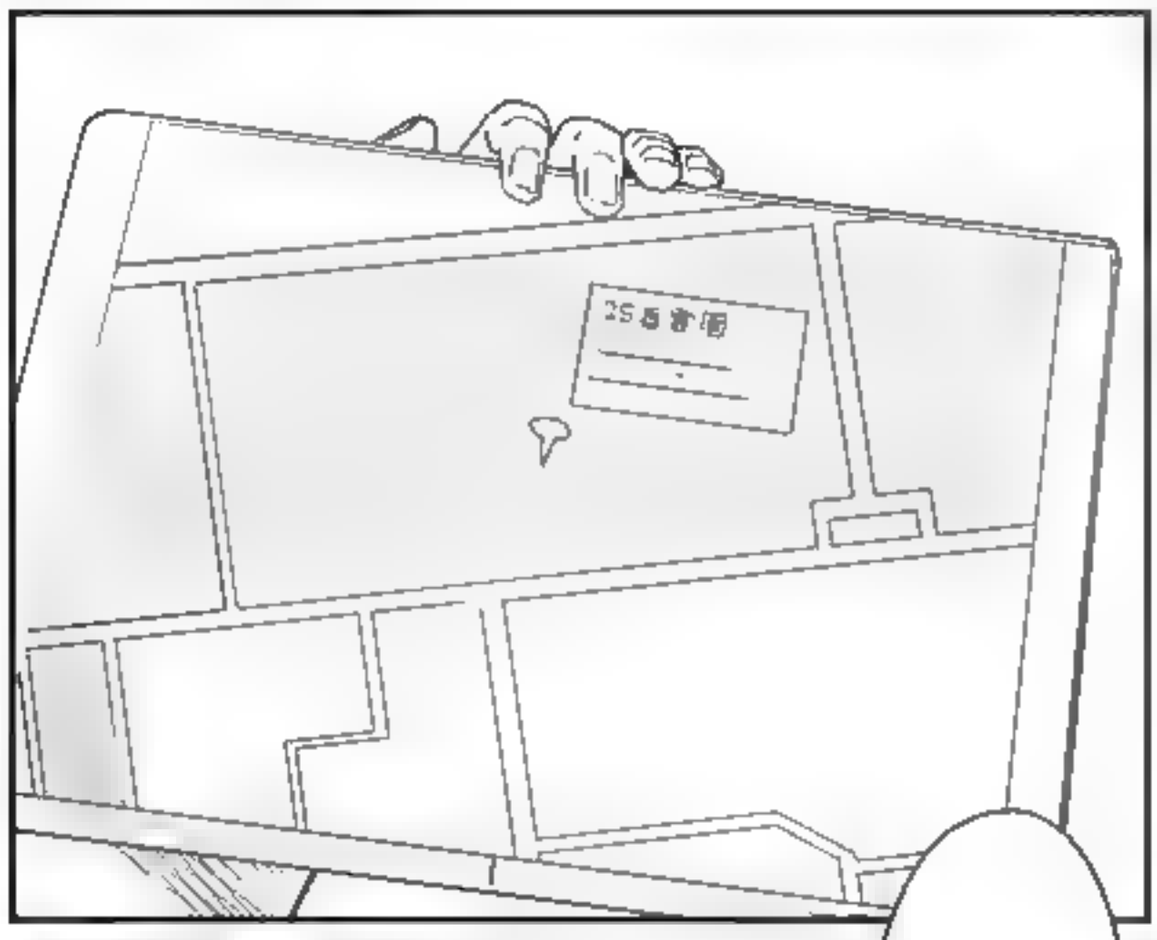
...GOOD DAY.

CAN YOU CALL THAT HATA HARUTO GUY FOR ME?

...HATA-KUN?

SAGARA CYCLES





HUH?

.....

.....

I...
I-

I DON'T WANT TO GO...

I KNOW IT'S STUPID OF ME, BUT...

A PART OF ME STILL WANTS TO BELIEVE THAT SHE'S STILL ALIVE AND LIVING HER LIFE SOMEWHERE I DON'T KNOW.

.....

I GET IT, I REALLY DO. I KNOW THAT SHE ISN'T ALIVE ANYMORE.

IS IT...

IS IT BAD TO WANT TO CLING ON-TO THAT KIND OF HOPE...?

.....

THAT'S NOT HOPE.

IS NOT THE SAME AS REFUSING TO ADMIT THAT THEY'RE DEAD.

WISHING AND PRAYING FOR THEM TO BE ALIVE AND WELL.

...

AND THAT'S WHY...

BUT WHAT'S EVEN WORSE IS REFUSING TO ACCEPT THEM AS THEY ARE NOW.

IT'S THE SAME FOR ALL. THE DEATH OF ANOTHER PERSON IS A SAD THING.

ISN'T THAT WHAT HOPE REALLY IS ABOUT?

YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT IT, AND KEEP ON LIVING, CARRYING THE SHARE OF LIFE THAT SHIINA NAMI WASN'T ABLE TO LIVE HERSELF.

GO SEE SHIINA NAMI.

!?

TOSS

ﾊﾞｻｯ

HATA-KUN...

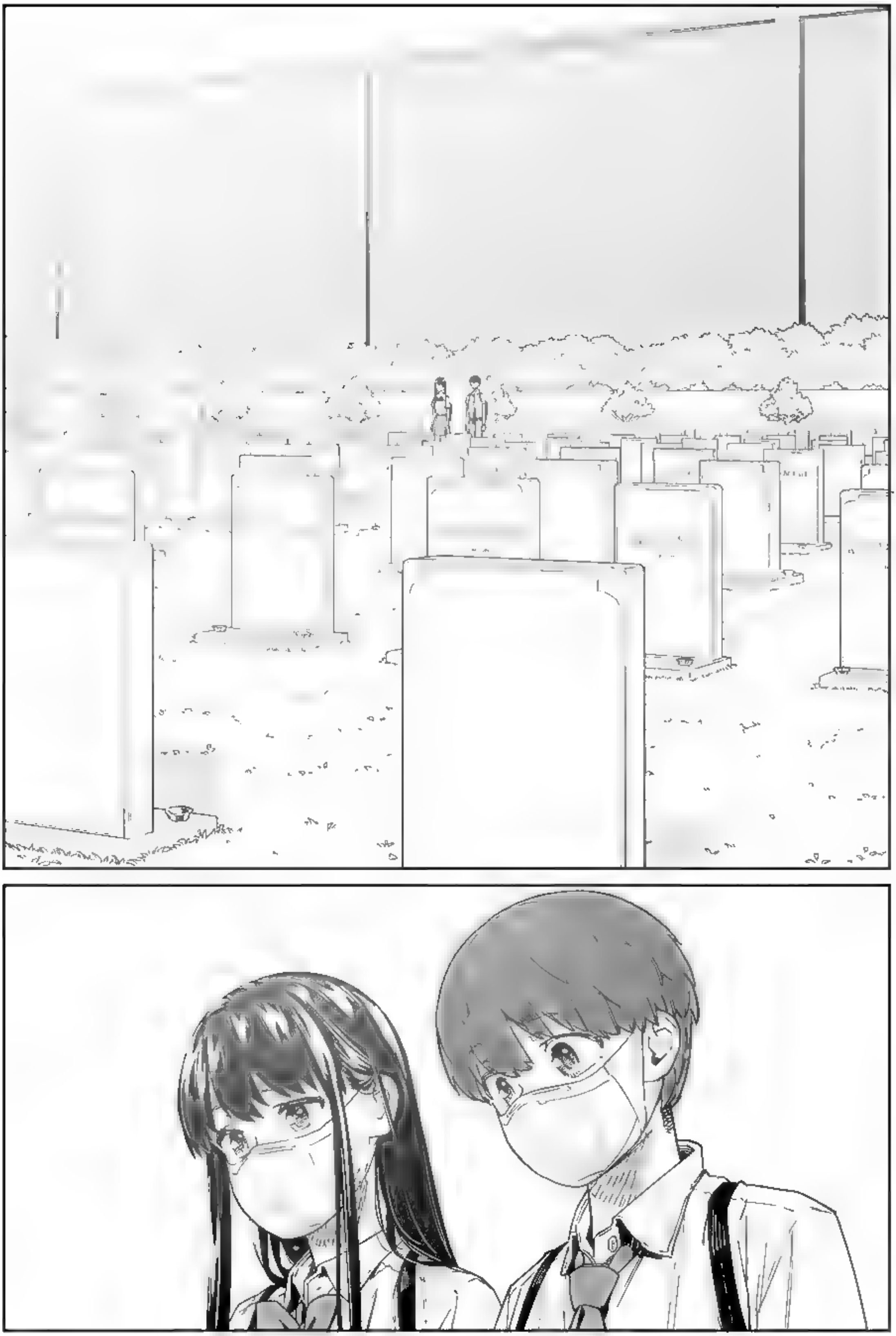
.....

BLACK HAIR!

I BOR-ROWED THOSE FROM THE COMME-MORATIVE FESTIVAL.

TAKE IT WITH YOU.

ウィィィ
B-15



SHIÎNA NAMI
2022 ~ 2023

SHE'S THE ONE I TOLD YOU ABOUT WHO VISITED ME DURING MY QUARAN-TINE.
THIS IS NATSUKI-SAN!
AH!

I'VE...
.....
COME TO SEE YOU...

CHINA

SHIINA-SAN...

REALLY...

.....

I HEARD THAT YOU SUPPORTED HATA-KUN DURING HIS TIME THERE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

BOW

SHŌNA NAMI

REALLY...

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

ONE.

TWO.

THREE.

GOT IT.

OKAY, AT THE COUNT OF THREE.

THERE IT GOES...

I WANTED TO INTRO-DUCE YOU TO HER SOMETIME.

I WANTED YOU TO MEET HER.

IT'S FINE.

NOT AT ALL, SORRY FOR TAGGING ALONG, UNINVITED

THANK YOU, NATSUKI-SAN.

AH!

LOOK AT THE TIME! AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?

HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...

UHH- MMM...

I OFTEN TALKED ABOUT YOU WITH SHIINA-SAN.

WHAT DID YOU TELL HER?

EH?

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I WILL FORGET HER.

Wait!

What did you tell her?!

Ah!

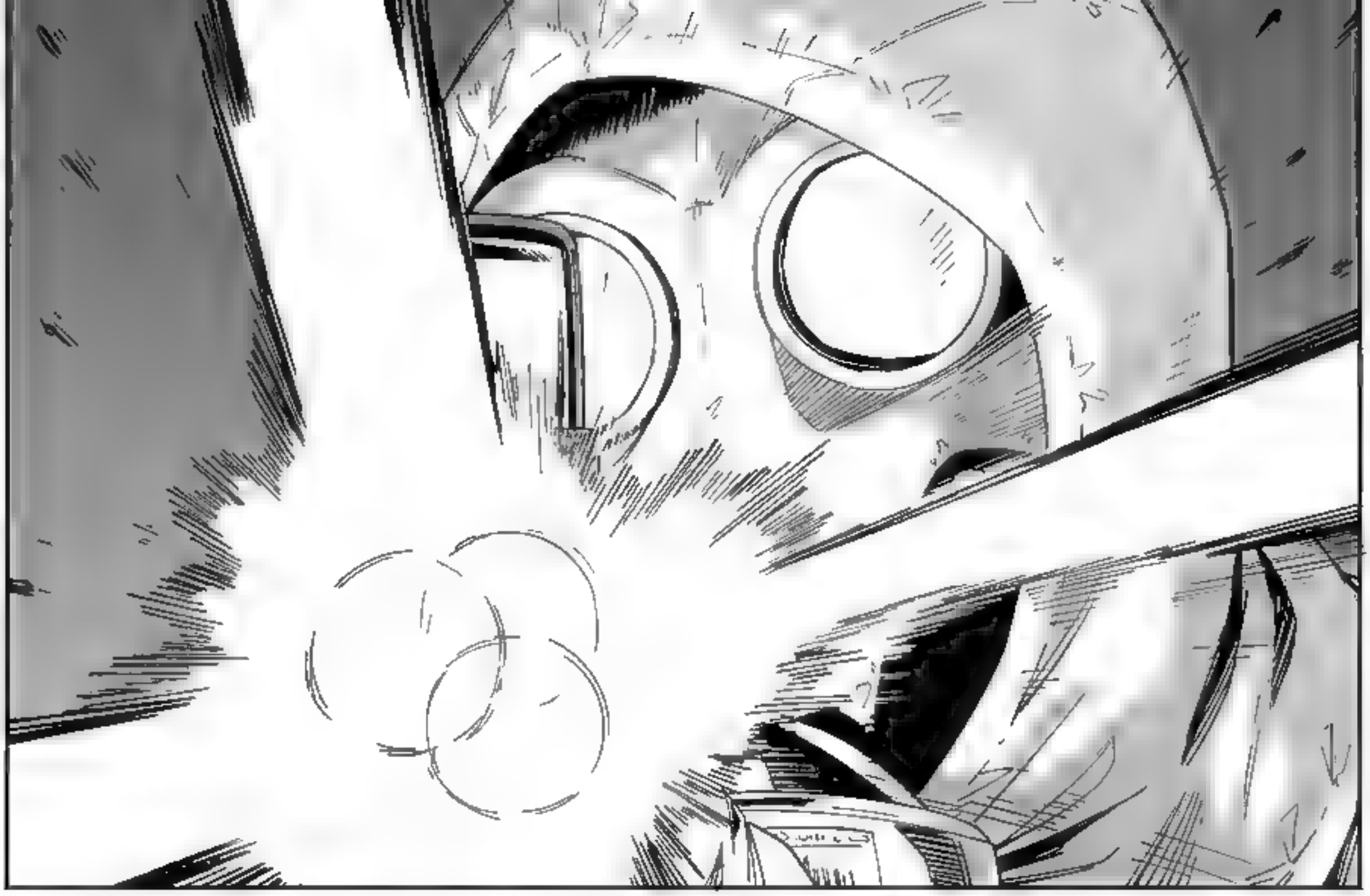
I'VE DECIDED TO GO ON LIVING IN A WORLD WITHOUT SHIINA-SAN.

I WILL ALWAYS CARRY HER WITHIN ME.

CAUSE NOW.

THIS CHAPTER WAS THE MANGAKA TELLING THE READERS TO STOP BEING HIGH ON COPIUM AND ACCEPT REALITY. THE IDOL IS DEAD AND ISN'T COMING BACK, DEAL WITH IT.

To Be Continued



NoMASK!
Bring Back Our Smile

BRING BACK
OUR SMILES!

There was a riot just the other day during the celebration of the erection of the disease prevention wall.

These days, the anti-mask groups are becoming more and more radical.

It's scary how they can believe that...

They believe that the Yakuto virus has already died out or that it has weakened to a state in which it would not present a real threat to humanity.

DO THEY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE SUFFERING WE WENT THROUGH 20 YEARS AGO?

I AGREE THAT SURE IS SCARY...

IT'S AS IF THEY CAME FROM A DIFFERENT WORLD FROM US.

Recently there have been an increase of people copying the culture and lifestyle before the pandemic, with the younger generation being the epicenter of these occurrences, this whole situation has developed into a more serious problem.

Their fooling around not only puts them at grave risk of infection, but us as well...

There's also the danger that their activities might lead us to another worldwide outbreak.

Those anti-mask groups might very well be the catalyst of leading us all to that possibility.

NATSUKI, DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS FOR SUMMER VACATION?

NONE SO FAR.

?

ISN'T THAT BAD?

WHAT'S THAT?

EEEEH

WEIRD THING?

I FOUND THIS WEIRD THING AT MY DESK.

AH! NATSU-KI!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

AH,

IT'S ONE OF KASHIMA TAIHEI'S MOVIES.

BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN THIS ONE YET...

THIS.

この春、中和不能!?
正義をもって悪を裁け!!

トキバリ

THE MOVIE IS SAVED INSIDE THE DISK AND THE DISK GOES INSIDE A SPECIAL MACHINE THAT CAN DISPLAY IT.

IT'S AN OLD MOVIE.

Why a frisbee.

トキバリ

A FRIS-BEE?

ALSO WHAT'S THIS MIRROR-LIKE THING INSIDE?

THEIR MOUTHS ARE IN PLAIN SIGHT, IT'S DEFINITELY A PORN MOVIE.

Yikes.

OPEN

I'LL GIVE IT BACK TO ITS OWNER.

.....

MAYBE ONE OF THE STUDENTS FROM THE AFTERNOON CLASSES FORGOT TO TAKE IT WITH THEM.

FOR THIS KIND OF STUFF, IT'S BETTER IF WE LET A TEACHER TAKE CARE OF IT, RIGHT?

Natsuki sure knows a lot

IT'S A PERSON WHO LIKES WATCHING MOVIES WHERE PEOPLE SHOW THEIR MOUTHS, YOU KNOW.

EEEH~ ARE YOU SURE?

I'D FEEL BAD FOR THEM IF THEIR OLD MOVIE GETS CONFISCATED BY A TEACHER.

IT'S FINE, I'M SURE.

THEY MIGHT BE DAN-GEROUS.

SO I'M A DAN-GEROUS PERSON NOW...

PANT
PANT
PANT

THIS, RIGHT?

UH-

UH- HM...

Blush

Y-

YUP.

THAT'S... RIGHT...

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

ANYWAY I DECIDED IT WAS BEST TO WAIT FOR THE OWNER INSTEAD OF HANDING IT OVER TO A TEACHER.

SURE,

UHM, WELL.

IT'S A MOVIE FROM BEFORE THE PANDEMIC.

IT'S DEFINITELY NOT SOMETHING OBSCENE...

DO YOU LIKE KASHIMA TAIHEI MOVIES?

WHA-

MY FAMILY OWNS A LOT OF THESE PRE-PANDEMIC MOVIES AT HOME.

SO I'VE WATCHED PLENTY OF HIS WORKS SINCE I WAS LITTLE.

AH! I'M FROM THE MORNING CLASS, MY NAME IS NATSUKI.

NICE TO MEET YOU.

I'M MOCHI-DZUKI AIRI.

TO THINK THAT I'D MEET ANOTHER LIKE-MINDED PERSON AT SCHOOL.

HOW NICE.

HAVE YOU WATCHED "TIME LEAP AFTER SCHOOL?"

YUP, TOTALLY♪

THE PART WHERE HE WAS DRINKING FROM A TAP.

YOU CAN'T SEE ANYTHING LIKE THAT NOW, BUT I THINK IT WAS CAPTIVATING

WHY WOULD YOU BRING THAT HERE?

BUT...

AH, WELL.

...YEAH.

AND ALSO,

HIS DRIPPING WET MOUTH

WAS SO LEWD.

YUP,

BUT I ENDED UP NOT GOING SINCE I ACCIDEN-TALLY LEFT IT HERE...

ANO-THER PLACE?

I FOR-GOT IT HERE.

I WAS PLANNING TO BRING IT TO A DIFFERENT PLACE, BUT...

TO BE HONEST, I WAS AL-READY HESITANT ABOUT IF I SHOULD GO OR NOT. SO IT WAS KIND OF A RELIEF WHEN I NOTICED.

NATSUKI-SAN,

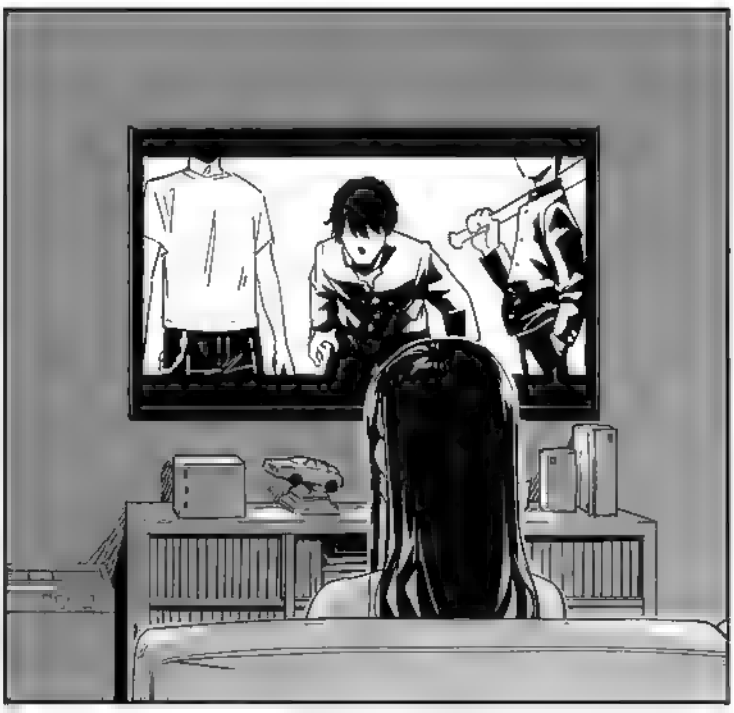
I THINK WE CAN BECOME GOOD FRIENDS. ♪♪♪

AH!

SORRY, I SHOULD REALLY BE GETTING TO CLASS NOW.

THANK YOU, AGAIN.

45:17



MOCHI-DZUKI-SAN...

I WONDER IF SHE'D BE WILLING TO LEND ME THAT MOVIE.

Kelvin.

PANT

PANT

PANT

PANT

BY THE WAY.

K

IT WAS A GIRL.

WAS HE A DANGEROUS LOOKING CREEP LIKE WE EXPECTED?

WAS IT A GUY?

YES, I WAS.

WERE YOU ABLE TO RETURN "IT?"

MOCHI-DZUKI-SAN!

AH! SHE HAD A BIT OF A WEIRD VIBE THOUGH.

I SAW YOU FROM THE WIN-DOW.

SO YOU'RE IN THE TRACK AND FIELD CLUB.

CAN WE TALK IN PRIVATE FOR A BIT?

UHM...

The girl I was telling you about

Who?

DOES SHE KNOW THAT YOU WATCH PRE-PANDEMIC MOVIES?

THAT FRIEND YOU WERE WITH EARLIER,

SO, WHAT IS IT?

THAT IF YOU WERE TO MEET MORE LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE TO WATCH THOSE MOVIES TOGETHER WITH,

THAT IT'D BE A LOT MORE ENTER-TAINING THAN DOING IT ALONE?

...NO.

I HAVEN'T TOLD ANY-ONE THAT I WATCH THOSE SORT OF MOVIES...

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT THAT?

...SAY.

REMEMBER THE PLACE I WAS SUPPOSED TO BRING THE MOVIE DISC TO, THE OTHER DAY?

BUT, IT TURNS OUT THAT I'M NOT BRAVE ENOUGH TO GO THERE BY MYSELF...

YOU CAN DO THAT THERE.

.....

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

UNLESS, YOU'RE WILLING TO GO WITH ME, NATSUKI-SAN...

MOCHI-DZUKI-SAN, RIGHT?

I'M GLAD YOU DECIDED TO COME.

IS IT NOT ALLOW-ED?

AH! SHE'S A PAL!

AND YOU ARE?

WEL-COME.

NAH, IT'S COOL.

AS LONG AS THEY'RE INTO IT, WE WELCOME ANYONE WITH OPEN ARMS♪♪♪

TO OUR PRE-PANDEMIC PHANTAS-MAGORIA

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...!

IT'S JUST THAT YOUR MOTHER* USED TO BE A MAGICAL GIRL DURING HER YOUTH!

*This is the mom speaking in the third person, which is common in Japan

WOAH.

.....

!?

THEY AREN'T JUST WATCHING MOVIES, THEY'RE ALSO... HERE,

MOCHI-DZUKI-SAN...

WHAT'S UP WITH HER HAND?
I-IS SHE... RIGHT THERE?
IN HER LIVING ROOM?

To Be Continued

RENTAL STORE
TERA HOUSE
MOVIES
DRAMAS
ANIME
VARIETY

BUT THEN THE OTHER DAY, THE CLERK INVITED ME TO VISIT THAT PLACE...

I OFTEN COME HERE TOBORROW *BP MOVIES.

DISCRETELY, OF COURSE.

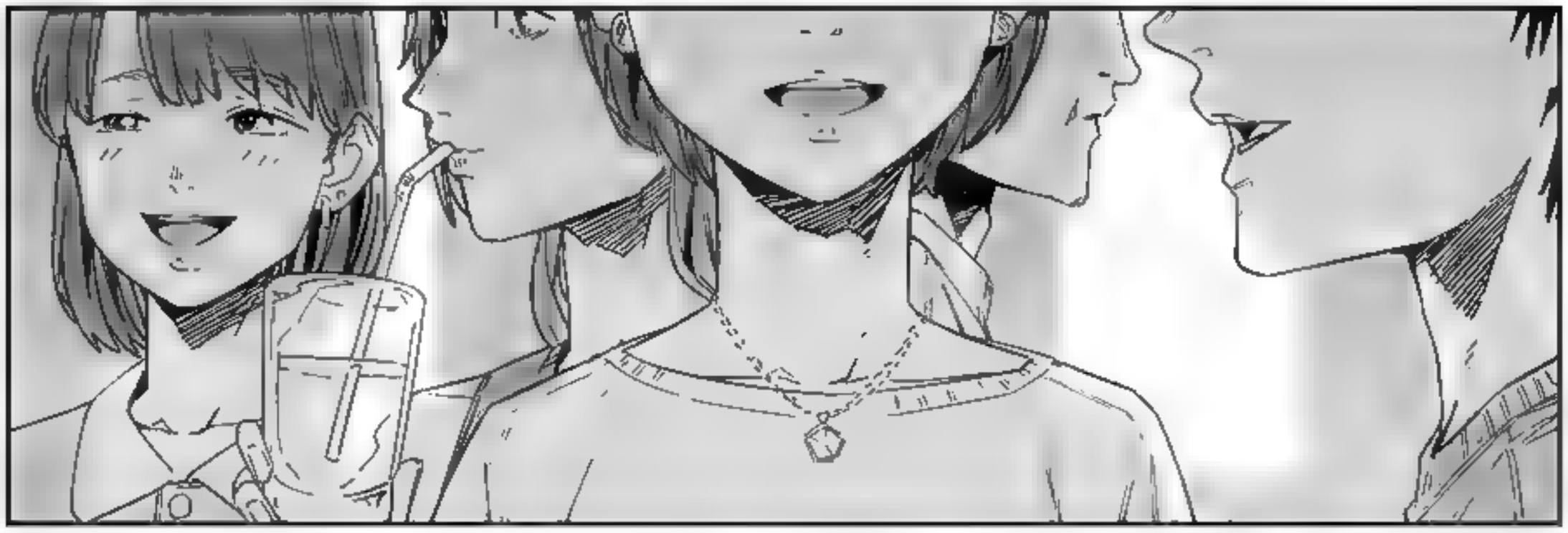
SO, YOU'RE TELLING ME THEY BRING THEIR FAVORITE MOVIES TO THAT PLACE

AND WATCH THEM TOGETHER

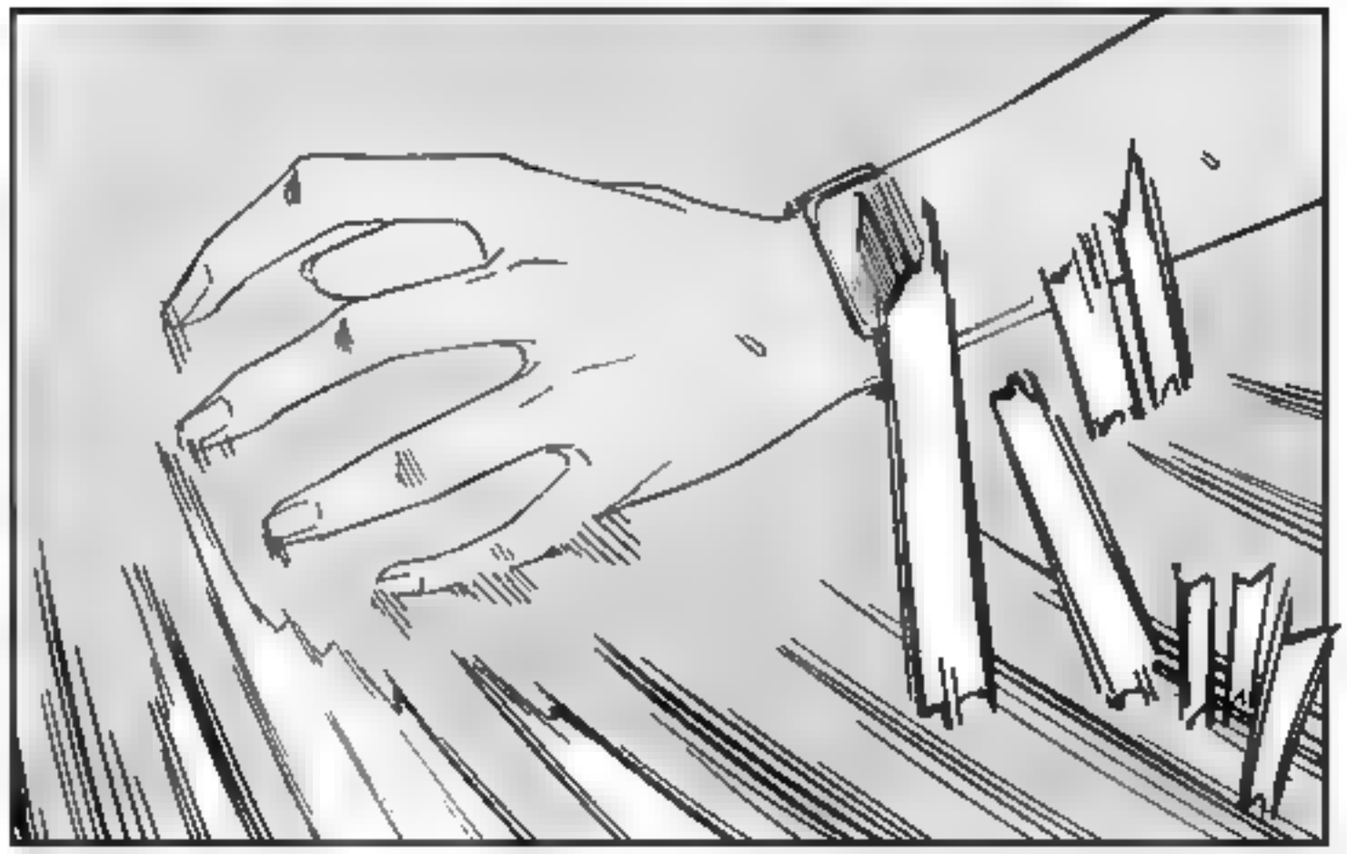
?

A PLACE WHERE FANS OF BP WORKS CAN GATHER AND SHARE THEIR HOBBY.

* - BEFORE THE PANDEMIC



ダン
MNG!



YOU CAN'T DO THAT MOCHIDZUKI-SAN-!

YOU CAN'T JUST GO AROUND SHOWING YOUR MOUTH OFF IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!

..!

NOD NOD

.....

MMPH.

PWAH

COME ON, DON'T JUST STAND THERE

I MEAN, YOU'RE FREE TO SPEND YOUR TIME HERE HOWEVER YOU WISH.

JUST LIKE BEFORE THE PANDEMIC.

WHAT'S WRONG?

UGH.

INCLUDING MASK ETIQUETTE?

YOU MEAN?

Sorry...

Eh...?

...HEY

YOU DIDN'T TELL HER?

** - AUGMENTED REALITY*

THOSE *AR GLASSES HIDE ALL OF OUR MOUTHS, RIGHT?

HOW 'BOUT NOW?

VERY WELL, THEN AS THE MANAGER HERE, ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN FROM THE START.

THIS IS A PLACE I CREATED FOR BP AFICIONADOS TO BRING AND SHARE BP WORKS FOR ALL TO SEE.

...YEAH.

AND WE DO MORE THAN JUST WATCH MOVIES.

YOU CAN CALL IT THE "SALON."

OR EVEN PHYSICAL CONTACT.

LIKE, HAVING REAL FACE-TO-FACE CONVER-SATIONS WITH EACH-OTHER.

WE TRY TO BRING BACK THE LIFE-STYLE, TOO.

IT'S TOO SUFFO-CATING.

THE WORLD RIGHT NOW,

I BET THAT YOU TOO WILL COME TO LIKE IT.

IT'S A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE CAN FEEL WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE CLOSE TO ONE ANO-THER.

THAT'S WHY A PLACE LIKE THIS IS NECES-SARY.

ヴォォォォォ

AH! AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY!

THE ROOM'S AIR IS PROPERLY PURIFIED AND FILTERED!

Here's mine...

トキシック

ファイル

Uh, yes...

OH, RIGHT!

DID YOU BRING YOUR MOVIES?

EXCELLENT, WHY DON'T WE GO WATCH THEM WITH EVERY-ONE ELSE?

ACTUALLY, IT'S MY FATHER'S THOUGH...

AH... YES.

ARE YOU THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THIS MOVIE?

EVERYONE'S WATCHING THE MOVIE I BROUGHT.

WHAT A WEIRD FEELING.

.....

YOU HAVE NICE TASTE FOR A YOUNG-STER.

I AC-TUALLY LOVE THIS MOVIE.

THANK YOU.

LOOK, LIKE THAT SCENE.

I ALSO LIKE IT.

YOU SEE, I

WHENEVER I WATCH A BP MOVIE, I ALWAYS END UP IMAGINING IT...

I OFTEN SEE MYSELF LIVING IN THE WORLD OF THE PAST...

IN A PLACE SO DIFFERENT FROM OUR CURRENT WORLD.

IT'S THE SAME FOR YOU, RIGHT?

EVERY SINGLE TIME...

...YES.

YOU THINK?

HOW SO?

I KNEW IT, YOU AND ME

ARE THE SAME.

SORRY.

FOR NOT TELLING EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS PLACE...

SEE, TOLD YOU.

WE'RE THE SAME.

IT SURPRISED ME AT FIRST, BUT AFTER A WHILE...

THIS PLACE IS AC-TUALLY FUN.

...IT'S FINE.

WOULD GO SEE MOVIES TOGETHER AND DO THIS.

GULP

BA-DUMP!

WAI-

DID YOU KNOW.

IN THE PAST, COUPLES.

MOCHI-DZUKI-SAN?

.....

FUFU FU...

JUST FOR NOW.

SO... WE'RE A COUPLE NOW?

IF THE ONE SITTING BESIDE ME RIGHT NOW WERE HATA-KUN...

.....

I...

WOULD'VE PROBABLY DONE THE SAME...

THE SAME.

WE ARE

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR INVITING US.

YES.

DID YOU HAVE FUN?

SO HOW WAS IT?

レンタルシ

テラハ

KIND OF HERETICS FOR THINKING LIKE THIS.

AFTER ALL, WE'RE USUALLY TREATED, LIKE, YOU KNOW

AS A DIE-HARD FAN, IT BRINGS A SMILE TO MY FACE SEEING YOUNGSTERS LIKE YOU, WHO WERE BORN IN THIS MASKED WORLD, TAKE AN INTEREST IN THE LIFE OF THE PAST.

DO YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE ANY ACQUAINTANCE WITHIN THE PANDEMIC PREVENTION GROUP?

OH, RIGHT.

YOUR FRIEND OVER THERE.

I SEE, THEN THAT'S GOOD.

ANYWAYS, IN CASE YOU HAPPEN TO MEET THOSE GUYS, PLEASE DON'T TELL THEM ANYTHING ABOUT THE SALON.

HUH...

...NO, I DON'T.

COULD THIS BE...

WHAT?!

YOUR BOY-FRIEND?

NA-TSUKI-SAN.

MOCHI-DZUKI-SAN.

?

WAIT...

HE'S A FRIEND.

REALLY.

SAY...

NATSUKI-SAN.

I SEE~

WANT TO...

GO TO THE SALON TODAY?

...AND SO,

I TRIED IMITATING THE SCENE FROM THAT MOVIE.

STARK

DON'T TELL ME...

EH? NO WAY...

...WELL.

OH~

DID SOMEONE SEE YOU?

THE ONE WHERE HE DIRECTLY DRINKS FROM THE FAUCET.

...HM

WAS IT PERHAPS, THE GUY FROM EARLIER?

YOUR MOUTH?

SOMEONE SAW...?

ｶﾌﾟﾌﾟﾌﾟ...

WHAT DID HE SAY?

WHAT?

...AND THEN?

Haaa

...I'M SO JEA-LOUS.

?

TH...

THAT IT WAS PRETTY...

COME ON, JUST A PEEK.

S-STOP THAT!

COME ON, SHOW ME.

YOUR MOUTH.

I WANT TO SEE IT TOO.

YOU flashed it yourself!

THAT DOESN'T COUNT.

AND THIS GIRL SAID WE WERE THE SAME...

ISN'T IT A BIT UNFAIR THAT ONLY MY MOUTH WAS SEEN?

I MEAN, YOU'VE ALREADY SEEN MINE, HAVEN'T YOU.

V.ROOOOM

MAYBE THIS TIME I'LL RENT A MOVIE FROM THE STORE.

OH,

Got it

Oh yeah, about the thing.

C-6

GRAB

!?

PULL

Yeah~ Sure, got it.

No, told you already

PANT PANT
PANT
PANT
.....
PANT
BEEP
PANT
BEEP
PANT
ぷしゅ
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!
!
SAGARA-SAN?

19:15
YOU WERE SEEN.
FRE-QUENTLY VISITING A HIDEOUT OF THE ANTI-MASK GROUP, "TEETH."

WE NEED A TYPESETTER FOR THIS SERIES

To Be Continued

NATSUKI EMI,

A 2ND YEAR STUDENT OF THE SECOND CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL.

MEMBER OF THE TRACK AND FIELD CLUB.

WOW.

100M IN 12.35 SECONDS.

Good enough for the nationals huh

THERE'S NO ESCAPING FROM US.

THAT MEANS IF YOU WERE TO TRY AND ESCAPE, NOT ONE OF US HERE WOULD BE ABLE TO CATCH YOU ON FOOT.

Truly amazing

HOWEVER,

IT WAS JUST A REGULAR GATHER-ING...

I... WAS JUST WATCHING MOVIES WITH EVERY-ONE ELSE THERE...

AN ANTI-MASK GROUP...

I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT THAT TEETH THING YOU MENTIONED BEFORE.

MMM,

THAT MIGHT BE SO, BUT JUST THE FACT THAT YOU WERE FREQUENTLY VISITING SUCH A PLACE RAISES A FEW CONCERNS.

IT'S NOT UNTHINKABLE THAT BY INTERACTING WITH THOSE PEOPLE YOU MIGHT EVEN-TUALLY GET INFLUENCED BY THEIR DANGEROUS IDEALS.

BUT I DON'T...

AND AS SOMEONE WHO MIGHT ALREADY BE HARBORING SUCH DANGER-OUS IDEALS

RIGHT NOW, EVEN.

WE ARE ALLOWED TO SEND YOU TO A REHABILITATION CENTER IN ORDER TO PREVENT THOSE IDEALS FROM BLOOMING.

HMM.

I GUESS.

IZUMI-SAN,

DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE TAKING THIS A LITTLE TOO FAR?

AS HARSH AS ALWAYS.

...!

YOU CAN TELL JUST FROM HER REACTION.

WELL THEN, LET'S GET INTO THE ACTUAL TOPIC, SHALL WE?

IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT SHE DOESN'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF DEVOTION TOWARDS ANY OF THOSE STRONG IDEALS OR CONVIC-TIONS YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT.

EMISSARY?

NO, IT DOESN'T...

THE "EMISSARY"

DOES THAT RING ANY BELLS TO YOU?

YOU SEE, WE'RE LOOKING FOR A CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL.

HUH...

THAT'S ALL?

WELL, THAT'S FINE THEN.

I SEE, I SEE.

SO YOU HAVEN'T.

WE'D ALSO LIKE YOU TO SHARE ANY INFO ABOUT TEETH THAT YOU HAPPEN TO HEAR.

His feet...!

FOR NOW?

FOR NOW.

WE CAN GET SOMEWHAT CLOSE TO TEETH, LIKE NOW, BY DRESSING UP AS REGULAR CIVILIANS.

HOWEVER, THEY AREN'T SO CARELESS AS TO LET ANY VALUABLE INFO LEAK OUT SO EASILY.

BUT

?

IT MUST BE YOU, NATSUKI-SAN, TO DECIDE WHETHER YOU WANT TO HELP US OR NOT IN ACQUIR-ING AND SHARING THE INFORMATION WE NEED.

THIS ISN'T AN OFFICIAL MISSION AND AS SUCH WE CAN'T FORCE YOU TO HELP US.

OF COURSE,

IN SHORT, IT'S YOUR DECISION TO MAKE,

BLACK HAIR.

WELL~ IF YOU WERE TO HELP US, YOU'D TECH-NICALLY BE AS THEY SAY

!

IF THE ONE GETTING CLOSE IS A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL,

EVEN THEY MIGHT END UP LETTING THEIR GUARD DOWN.

A SPY.

IT'D BE BAD FOR US IF WE GOT EXPOSED, YOU KNOW?

AND PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE, NOT EVEN YOUR FRIENDS, ABOUT THIS, OKAY?

OH, I ALMOST FORGOT.

IF YOU EVER HAPPEN TO MEET THE EMISSARY,

WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T TAKE OFF YOUR MASK.

DO FOLLOW THE INFECTION CONTROL MEASURES TO A T, WILL YOU?

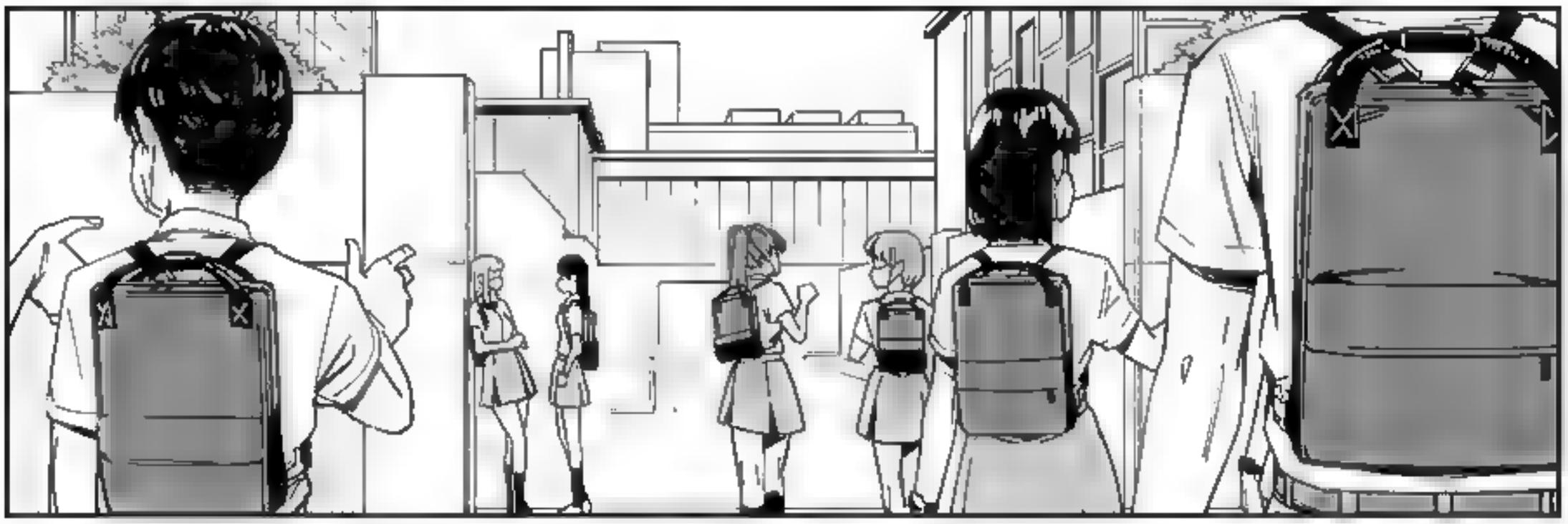
THAT WAS PRETTY TERRIFYING.

AND...

A SPY,

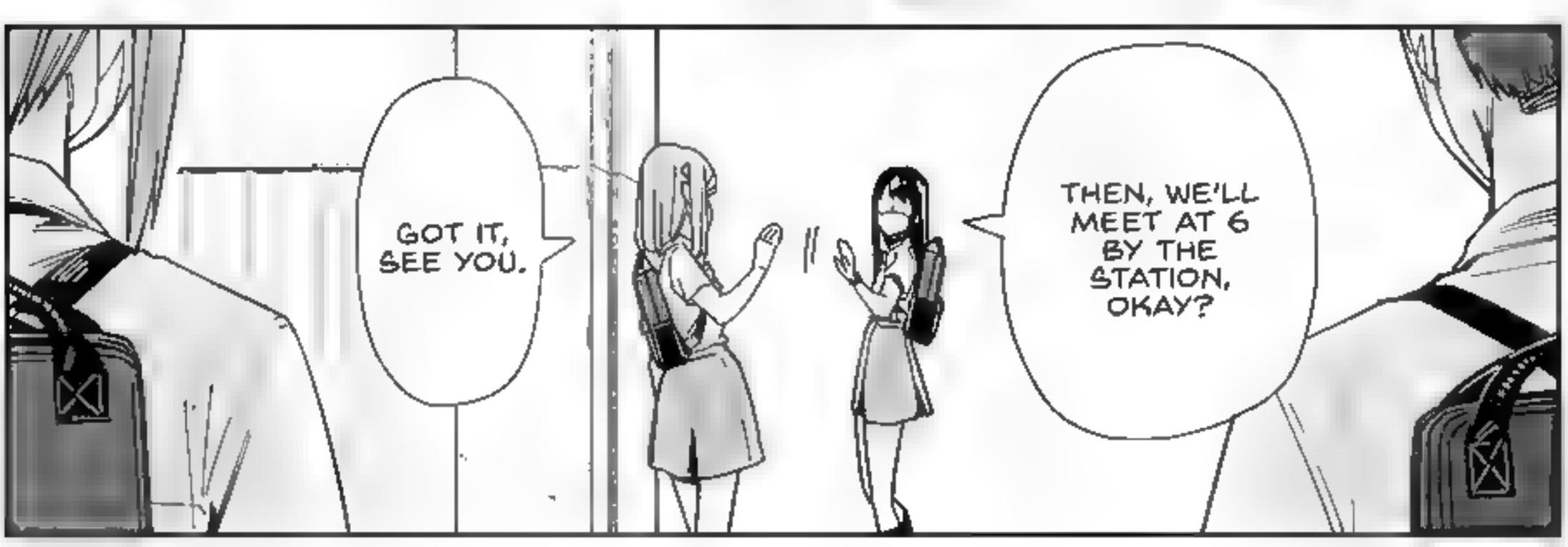
HUH...

JUST... WHAT DID I GET MYSELF INTO?



I JUST KNOW IT.
THERE'S SOMETHING SHADY ABOUT THAT GIRL.
PLUS, NATSUKI WON'T TELL ME WHAT THEY DO WHEN THEY'RE OFF BY THEM-SELVES.

THEY'RE REALLY CLOSE, AREN'T THEY?
SHE'S BEEN HANGING OUT WITH NO ONE ELSE BESIDES THAT GIRL LATELY, HUH.


GOT IT, SEE YOU.
THEN, WE'LL MEET AT 6 BY THE STATION, OKAY?

EH?

AREN'T YOU?

YOU'RE ALSO DYING TO FIND OUT WHAT THOSE TWO ARE UP TO, RIGHT, HATA-KUN?

Manager-san

OH, HEY.

YOU'RE STILL KEEPING YOUR MASKS ON?

SUCH TRUE MODEL CITIZENS, I SEE~

WELL, IT'S MY GROUP'S EMBLEM...

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

OH? DID IT CATCH YOUR EYE?

WHAT DO YOU GIRLS SAY?

WON'T YOU HELP US CREATE A WORLD WHERE WE CAN SEE EACH OTHER'S SMILING FACES?

THE EMBLEM OF THE ANTI-MASK GROUP TEETH.

...!

BUT

IF YOU DO HAPPEN TO BE INTERESTED, WE'LL WELCOME YOU WITH OPEN ARMS.

IT'S AGAINST THE GROUP'S POLICIES TO COERCE PEOPLE INTO JOINING ANYWAY.

YOU TWO CAN STOP MAKING THOSE FACES NOW, HAHA.

IT WAS A JOKE.

HAD MY SUSPICIONS AT FIRST

BUT TO THINK THAT THE MANAGER WAS ACTUALLY FROM AN ANTI-MASK GROUP...

I...

SO HAVE FUN ♥

AH, THAT AND THE SALON ARE UNRELATED, JUST SO YOU KNOW.

NATSUKI-SAN?

IT'S OKAY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

THAT'S DEFINITELY CROSSING A LINE, ISN'T IT?

I KNOW I WAS THE ONE WHO INVITED YOU, BUT...

I ALSO JUST WENT OUT OF CURIOSITY.

KIND OF LIKE AN EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIP.

...YEAH

BUT, YOU KNOW

Hey, don't look!

DO YOU REGRET GOING TO THE SALON, MOCHIDUZKI-SAN?

THAT...

MIGHT BE TRUE.

?

LIVING IN A WORLD WHERE WE CAN SEE EACH OTHER'S SMILING FACES...

IF IT WAS ACTUALLY POSSIBLE TO CREATE SUCH A WORLD, WOULD IT NOT BE FANTASTIC?

DURING THE ANTI-MASK MEETING.

THEN

LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU REALLY THINK ABOUT IT NEXT TIME.

NATSUKI-SAN...!

WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE...?

GUYS...

IT WAS ALL PRETTY FUN WHEN I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A GROUP OF FANS WATCHING BP MOVIES.

AT FIRST,

IF ONLY IT HAD STAYED LIKE THAT...

I SEE...

YEAH...

BECAUSE SAGARA-SAN ASKED YOU FOR HELP?

SO YOU WERE THERE

THEY SAID IT WASN'T MANDATORY TO HELP THEM, SO I GUESS I CAN REFUSE?

WELL...

AND ABOUT THAT MISSION... CAN'T YOU REFUSE?

BEING A SPY AND STUFF.

DOESN'T IT SOUND KIND OF EXCITING?

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT PLACE IS ACTUALLY DANGEROUS OR ANYTHING, PLUS...

BUT, YOU SEE

IT'S NOT EXCITING AT ALL.

NOT IN THE SLIGHT-EST.

IT'S THE SAME FOR ME, I REALLY ENJOYED REENACTING THAT WORLD TOGETHER WITH YOU, NATSUKI-SAN...

BUT...!

I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU YEARN FOR THE WORLD BEFORE THE PANDEMIC.

I GET IT, I REALLY DO

UH...

AH...

HATA-KUN...?

W-WHA...

I KNOW I'M NOT YOUR BOY-FRIEND AND I DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHT TO BUTT INTO YOUR LIFE...

BUT STILL!! FOR ME, YOU ARE...!

A VERY IMPORTANT PERSON!

THIS AND THAT ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

DON'T YOU THINK THAT THERE'S SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT ALL THESE MASK-LESS PEOPLE GATHERING AT THAT PLACE?

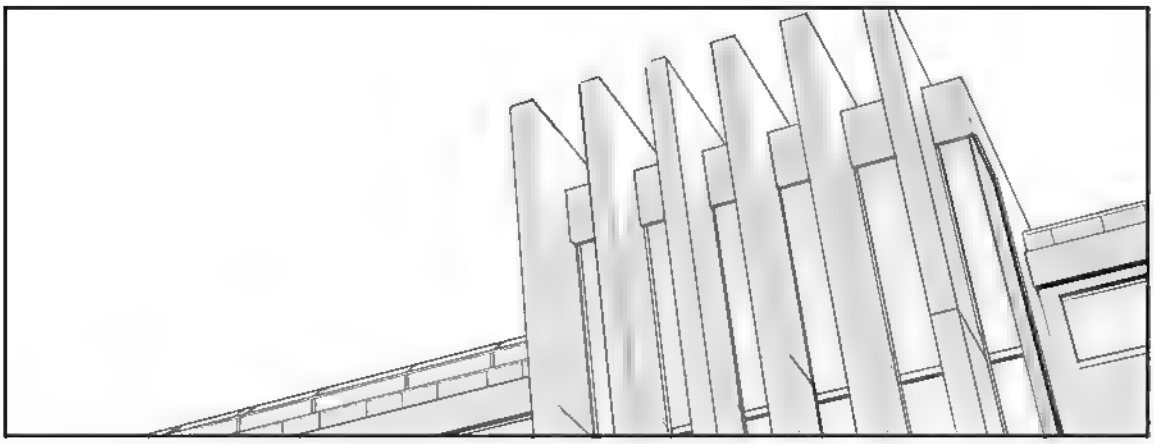
WHAT COULD BE FUN OR EXCITING ABOUT INFIL-TRATING THAT KIND OF PLACE?!

SO PLEASE, STOP PUTTING YOURSELF IN DANGER!
Squeeze

OKAY.

I'LL STOP.

I WON'T GO THERE ANYMORE.



MOCHIDZUKI-SAN?

VRRR

VRRR

Today was the anti-mask group gathering, right?

Yeah...

HELLO.

SOMETHING HAPPENED?

Actually, there's something I must tell you, Mochiduzki-san...

NATSUKI-SAN?

.....

YEAH...

IT'S TODAY, BUT...

.....

SO

YOU TOLD HIM?

I...

I WON'T BE GOING TO THE SALON ANYMORE.

...SORRY, GOTTA GO.

Eh? Where are you now?

At the salon.

Where I thought you'd be.

...

Yes.

I SEE...

Apparently, someone really important has come.

The Manager told us to gather.

Someone who comes from the other side of the walls, they call him

The Emissary

To Be Continued

コミックアウル人気作品

ニューノーマル
相原瑛人

君がそれを愛と呼んでも
ひびき澪

お父さんが早く死にますように。
裏海マユ

私が15歳ではなくなっても。
あむ

スカビオサ
深月くるみ

シアワセな家族
作画：市井時計
原作：青沼

サチある道々
～私をいらない両親へ
岡本一広

コミックアウル
comic owl
手のひらに、非日常を！

電子青年レーベルコミックアウル
新作は続々と配信予定！
最新の配信情報はtwitterから！ @comicowl_fg